

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 RSC-01 /027 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:WDROGERS:CJS

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

ARA/NC:FJDEVINE (SUBSTANCE)

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P 190118Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 277719

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR

FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. I MET WITH AMBASSADOR BURELLI RIVAS ON DECEMBER 16.
2. HE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT LIMA. I SAID THAT I HAD BEEN GRATIFIED BY MY INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ. IT CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO MY APPRECIATION OF HIM AS A PERSON, AND OF THE PURPOSES AND GOALS OF HIS IMPORTANT POLICY INITIATIVES. I WAS ALSO IMPRESSED, AND AT ONE, WITH HIS SUGGESTION THAT WE SHOULD SEARCH FOR MEANS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
3. I POINTED TO THE PROPOSED JANUARY MINISTERIAL MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, WHICH SCHACHT HAS AGREED TO, HERE AS AN IMPORTANT STEP TO THAT END. WOULD THE AMBASSADOR DETERMINE IF THE WEEK BEGINNING JANUARY 17 WERE CONVENIENT, I ASKED.
4. IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT THE MEETING BE FRUITFUL, WE WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SENDING A SMALL TEAM TO CARACAS BEFOREHAND TO WORK UP A WELL-DEFINED AGENDA. THIS PREPARATORY VISIT MIGHT INCLUDE ONE OR MORE OF
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DEVINE, LUERS AND EINAUDI.

5. I SAID THAT I RECALLED VAGUELY THAT SCHACHT IN HIS LAST LETTER HAD MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY THAT MINISTER PEREZ GUERRERO MIGHT COME TO MEET THE SECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PLACE. I SAID THAT WE WOULD ABIDE BY WHATEVER WAS MOST CONVENIENT FOR THE GOV IN THIS.

6. I ADDED THAT A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY ON THE ARRANGEMENTS, IN REPLY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S LAST LETTER, WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY.

7. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED ME THAT VENEZUELA WAS ON THE RIGHT SIDE ON THE KHMER ROUGE ISSUE.

8. IN CLOSING CONVERSATION AMBASSADOR BURELLI REFERRED TO CONTINUING LEGAL PROBLEM OF VEN-FUEL AND RELATED WITHHOLDING BY JACKSONVILLE ELECTRIC CORPORATION OF DOLS 6 MILLION DUE FOR FUEL OIL ALREADY DELIVERED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE277719
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WDROGERS:CJS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740368-1019
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741222/aaaaasjm.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS
TAGS: PFOR, VE, US
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005